

**North Carolina
Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
2007–2008
ANNUAL REPORT**



**Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

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Governor

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Parks and Recreation Trust Fund
Annual Report 2007–2008

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1.0 Introduction

The North Carolina General Assembly established the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) on July 16, 1994. The General Assembly made an initial appropriation of \$1 million to the PARTF to fund improvements in state parks, to fund grants for local governments and to increase public access to the state's beaches. In 1995, the General Assembly dedicated funds from the excise stamp tax to the trust fund starting in FY 1996-97. The Parks and Recreation Authority, an 11 member board, was also created to allocate funds from the PARTF to projects in state parks and to grants for local governments.

The excise tax is the primary funding source for the PARTF. The tax is levied on each "deed, instrument, or writing by which interest in real property is conveyed to another person." The tax is levied at the rate of one dollar on each \$500 of the interest or property conveyed. Each county remits one-half of the proceeds, less the county's allowance for administrative expenses, to the state. Effective July 1996, the General Assembly (G.S. 105-228.30) stipulated that part of the state's share would be allocated to the PARTF. Of the funds remitted, the Department of Revenue credits 75 percent to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and 25 percent to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. Additional revenue is allocated from a portion of the fees from personalized license plates as well as investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund.

Pursuant to G.S. 113-44.15, the money from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund is to be allocated as follows:

- (1) Sixty-five percent (65 percent) for the State Parks System for capital projects, repairs and renovations of facilities and to acquire land.
- (2) Thirty percent (30 percent) to provide grants to local governments on a dollar-for-dollar basis to create or improve parks and recreational projects.
- (3) Five percent (5 percent) for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program.
- (4) No more than three percent may be used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the operating expenses associated with managing capital improvements projects, acquiring land, and administering the grants program for local governments.

2.0 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority, a 15-member board which oversees the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, was created by the General Assembly with the Authority's powers and duties becoming effective July 1, 1996. The membership on the board was expanded from 11 to 15 in 2007. The Governor appoints five members, including the chairperson. The General Assembly appoints 10 members, five upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and five upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House.

The Authority is charged with six powers and duties: 1) to receive public and private donations and funds for deposit into the trust fund; 2) to allocate funds for land acquisition; 3) to allocate funds for capital projects; 4) to solicit financial and material support; 5) to develop effective support for parks and recreation; 6) and to advise the Secretary of DENR on any matter he may refer to the body.

Members are appointed for three-year terms and may serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. After serving two consecutive three-year terms, a member is not eligible for appointment to the Authority for at least one year after the expiration of the member's last term. The Parks and Recreation Authority held four meetings during fiscal year 2007-2008.

The 2007-2008 Parks and Recreation Authority members are:

Jonathan Howes, Chairman
Chapel Hill

Timothy L. Aydlett
Elizabeth City

Wendell Begley
Black Mountain

Thomas Blue
Southern Pines

Daryle Bost
Winston-Salem

Robert Epting
Chapel Hill

Cody Grasty
Maggie Valley

Eddie Holbrook
Shelby

Ron Kincaid
Mount Gilead

Boyd Lee
Greenville

Philip McKnelly
Raleigh

Cynthia Tart
Oak Island

Lisa Weston
Belmont

Hollis Wild
West Jefferson

Edward Wood
Wilmington

3.0 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Summary

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) is housed within the Division of Parks and Recreation, which operates the North Carolina State Parks System. The Parks and Recreation Authority allocates PARTF revenue to the state parks capital improvement and land acquisition projects. This board also selects the recipients of the grants to local governments to create or improve parks and recreational projects. The Division of Parks and Recreation, under Lewis Ledford, Division Director, develops priorities for the state parks system and recommends projects for the board's approval. Once the board has allocated the PARTF funds, the Division manages the projects for state parks and for the grants program.

The Division of Parks and Recreation transfers 5 percent of PARTF revenue to the Division of Coastal Management (DCM) for the Coastal and Estuarine Water Beach Access Program. The Division of Coastal Management, under Division Director Jim Gregson, administers these funds and offers matching grants to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Table 3-1 shows the revenues received into the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the allocation of revenues by program for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Table 3-1. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Deposits and Distribution of Revenues Fiscal Year 2007-2008	
Deposits	Amount
Total 2007-2008 PARTF Revenues	\$ 52,481,200
Personalized Registration Plates	\$ 1,445,813
Investment Income	\$ 2,359,502
Excise Tax	\$ 48,675,885
Distribution	Amount
Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program	\$ 2,624,060
Local Governments Matching Grants Program	\$ 15,407,771
<u>State Parks System</u>	
Land Acquisition	\$ 13,543,122
Capital Improvements	\$ 18,083,320
COPs Repayment	\$ 1,757,061
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>	
Contract with NCSU - Recreation Resources Service	\$ 361,115
Division of Parks & Recreation staff and Authority members	\$ 704,751

4.0 Grants Program for Local Governments

4.1 *Program Description*

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) program provides dollar-for-dollar grants to local governments. All counties, incorporated municipalities and public authorities (as defined in N.C.G.S. 159-7) are eligible for funding. Two or more local governments may apply jointly. Recipients can acquire land to be used for public recreation or to protect the natural or scenic resources of the property. Recipients can also use a grant to build or renovate recreational and support facilities. All facilities must serve the general public.

In September, the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) mails a description of the PARTF program and a schedule to local governmental officials and parks and recreation directors. A local government can request a maximum grant amount of \$500,000 in PARTF assistance with its grant application. The approved value of land that is donated to a local governmental unit or public authority may be applied to the 50 percent matching requirement.

The DPR provides assistance to local governments in several ways. In October, the PARTF staff conducts a workshop where local governments can learn about the program and how to complete an application. The workshop is presented simultaneously at University of North Carolina video conference sites. The DPR has a contract with the Recreation Resources Service (RRS) at North Carolina State University. The staff of RRS provide technical assistance to local governments who request help in planning projects and preparing grant applications. RRS has six consultants in regional offices across the state.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority select which applicants will receive a grant. The factors considered by the Authority as it selects recipients include, but are not limited to, the criteria contained in the PARTF scoring system, the population of the applicant, the geographic distribution of projects across the state, the presence or absence of other funding sources and compliance with prior grant agreements.

Applications are due January 31. The Parks and Recreation Authority meets in May to select recipients from PARTF revenues received for the first three-quarters of the fiscal year. The Authority meets in early July to select grant recipients from PARTF revenues received during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.

4.2 Description of Applications and Grants

The PARTF revenues allocated to local grants for fiscal year 2007-2008 were \$15,407,771. Eighty-nine units of local government submitted PARTF applications requesting a total of \$27.2 million in PARTF assistance. The Authority awarded 44 grants for \$16,426,029. The difference between the amount awarded and the fiscal year revenues is \$882,516 from various cancelled projects, reductions in the scope of work or projects completed under budget.

Table 4-1 shows a list of the projects approved for fiscal year 2007-2008. The table is organized alphabetically by recipient.

4.3 Geographic Distribution of Grants

The members of the Parks and Recreation Authority consider the geographic distribution of funds across the state as one of the factors used in selecting grant recipients. Since 1995, the Authority has awarded more than \$123 million in PARTF grants to 586 projects in 99 counties across North Carolina (Figure 4-1). Figure 4.2 presents the distribution of PARTF grants by county for the current fiscal year.

Table 4-1. North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grants Fiscal Year 2007-08			
Applicant	County	Project	Grant Amount
Ahoskie	Hertford	Ahoskie Creek Recreational Complex	\$500,000
Alamance County	Alamance	Alamance County Greenway	\$400,000
Albemarle	Stanly	E.E. Waddell Community Center	\$499,979
Avery	Avery	Avery Community Park	\$376,125
Black Mountain	Buncombe	Lake Tomahawk Park	\$500,000
Buncombe	Buncombe	Owen Park Renovation	\$23,107
Cameron	Moore	Phillips Memorial Park	\$30,000
Carteret	Carteret	Newport Park	\$500,000
Chatham	Chatham	Northeast Community Park	\$500,000
Cleveland	Cleveland	Kings Mountain Gateway Trail	\$500,000
Conetoe	Edgecombe	Conetoe Town Park	\$65,000
Edenton	Chowan	Meadow View Dairy Farm Park	\$500,000
Elizabeth City	Pasquotank	South Park Sports Complex	\$500,000
Forest City	Rutherford	Cool Springs Recreation Center Renovation	\$150,000

Franklin	Franklin	Pilot Lion Community Park	\$500,000
Gamewell	Caldwell	Gamewell Park	\$185,503
Gaston County	Gaston	Poston Park Lake Project	\$500,000
Greensboro	Guilford	Gateway Gardens	\$500,000
Harnett County	Harnett	Barbecue Creek Park Improvements	\$500,000
High Shoals	Gaston	High Shoals Park	\$34,925
Hoke	Hoke	Community Center Project	\$500,000
Jamestown	Guilford	Center City Park Land Acquisition	\$55,863
Kenansville	Duplin	Kenan Park Improvements	\$267,177
Kure Beach	New Hanover	Oceanfront Park Property Acquisition	\$500,000
Lillington	Harnett	Lillington Recreational Facility	\$500,000
Lincoln	Lincoln	Rock Springs Park/Pine Ridge	\$500,000
Marion	McDowell	Catawba River Greenway-Phase I	\$167,300
Morganton	Burke	Catawba River Soccer Complex Phase II	\$385,000
Mount Airy	Surry	Ararat River Greenway Phase II	\$500,000
Nags Head	Dare	Whalebone Park	\$500,000
Oak Island	Brunswick	Yaupon Fishing Pier	\$500,000
Person	Person	Mayo Park Environmental Education Center	\$327,500
Pitt	Pitt	Pitt County District Park - Phase II	\$100,000
Polk	Polk	Alexander's Ford Project	\$500,000
Rutherfordton	Rutherford	Lights for Crestview Park Ball Fields	\$100,000
Selma	Johnston	Richard Harrison Recreation Center Improvements	\$291,000
Smithfield	Johnston	Smithfield Recreation & Aquatic Center - Phase II	\$451,950
Stokesdale	Guilford	Stokesdale Town Park	\$500,000
Surf City	Pender	Surf City Recreational Park	\$212,950
Surry	Surry	Shoals Community Park	\$477,000
Transylvania	Transylvania	Connestee Falls	\$325,650
Union	Union	Jesse Helms Park (Passive Area) Phase 2	\$500,000
Wagram	Scotland	Wagram Recreation Center	\$500,000
Winterville	Pitt	Recreation Park Redevelopment Phase I	\$500,000
Total			\$16,426,029

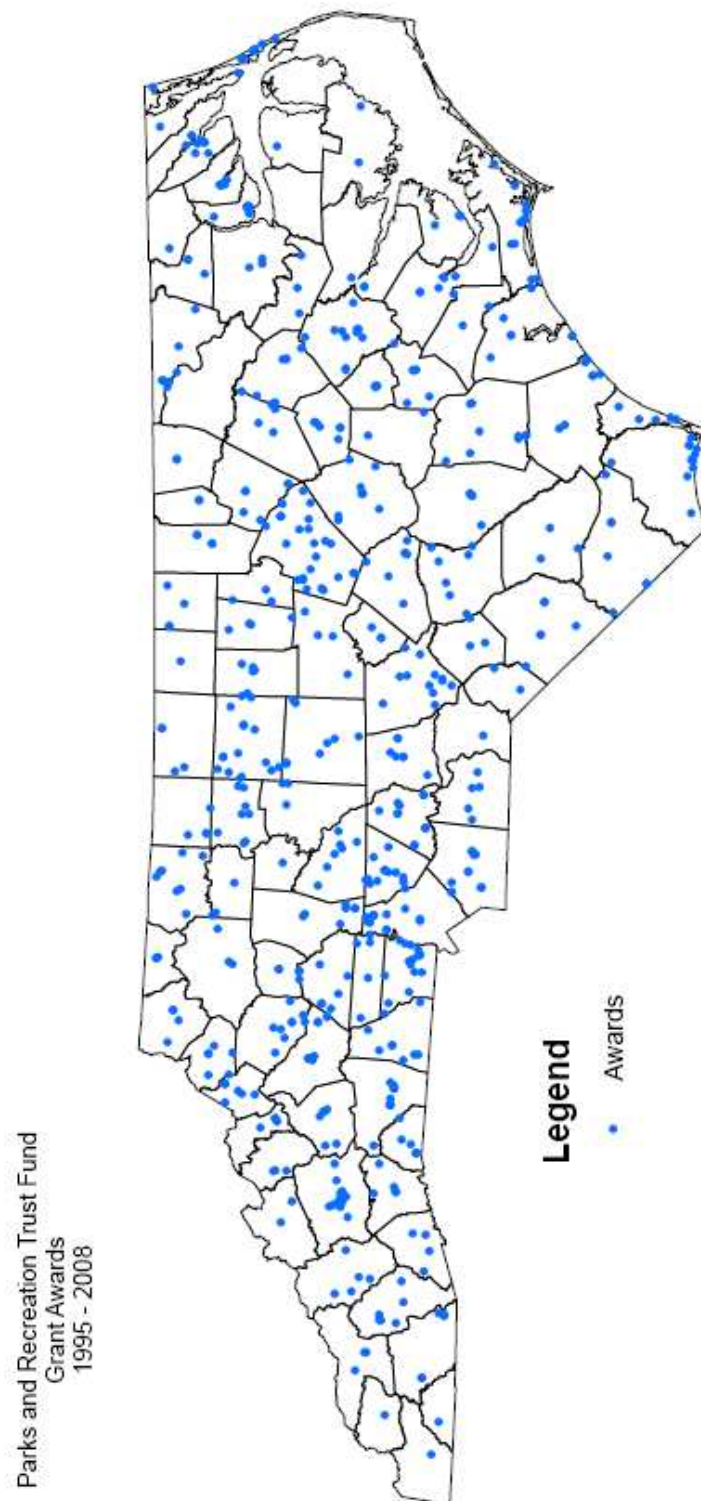


Figure 4-1. Distribution of PARTF Grants by County 1995-2008

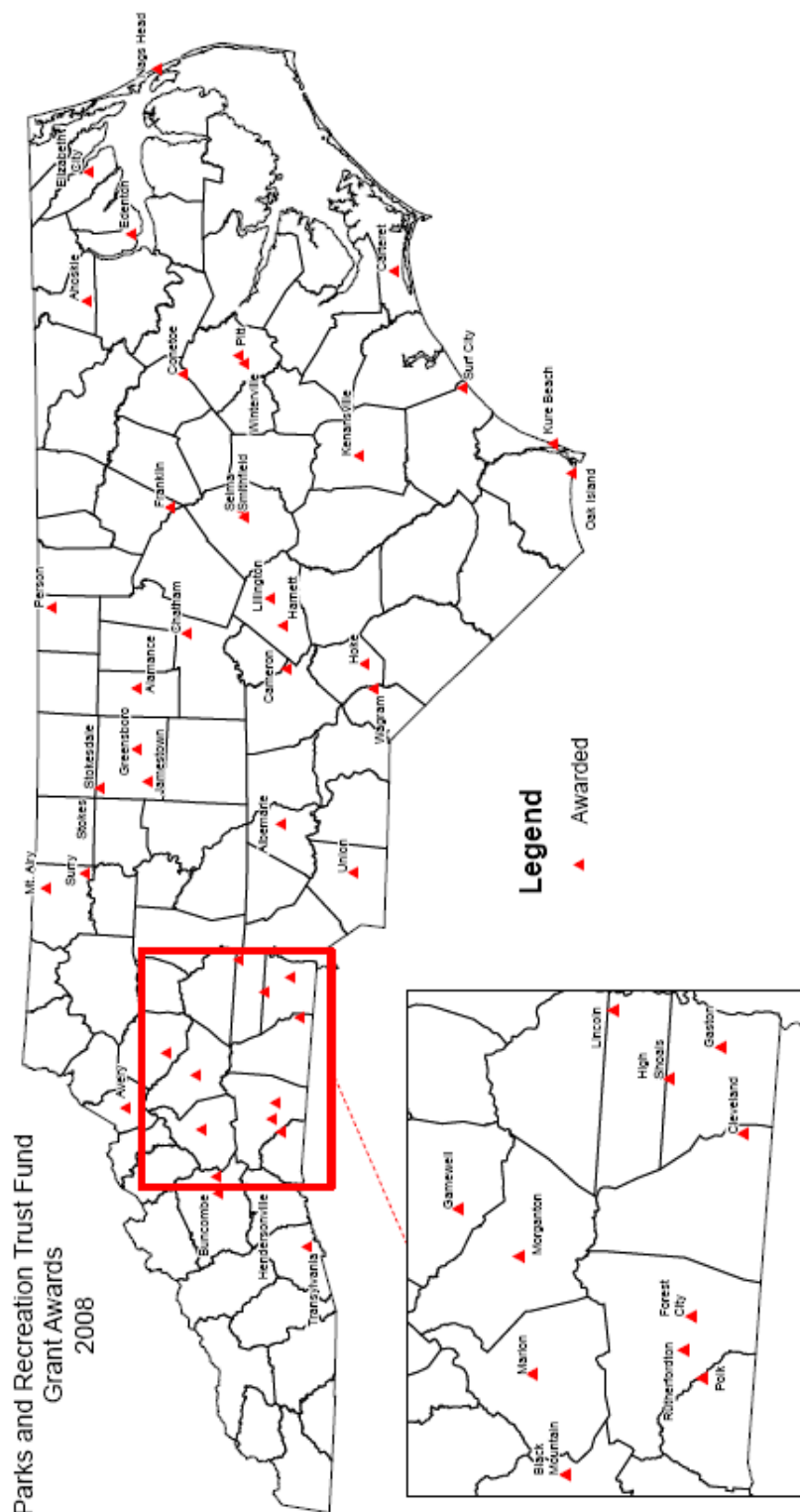


Figure 4-2. Distribution of PARTF Grants by County from 2008 Grant Cycle

***Examples of Local Government Projects Funded by
NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund***

Harnett County – Town of Lillington

The Lillington Recreational Facility project will provide the town's first indoor recreation space. The 6,000-square-foot facility will be located on a 21-acre site that has been donated to the town for a public park. The park and recreation center will help address the recreation needs of approximate 20,000 persons who live in and around this rapidly-growing community. The buildings will include an exercise and fitness room, a technology room oriented toward recreation users, a crafts and cultural activities area, as well as a kitchen.

Pasquotank County - Elizabeth City

The South Park Sports Complex is a joint effort between the Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County parks and recreation departments. This project will be located on property purchased with a previous PARTF land acquisition grant. The sports complex will feature five ball fields for youth baseball and softball, batting cages, a playground, a picnic area, and a multi-purpose trail. All of these facilities will be connected by walkways that are accessible according to Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

McDowell County - City of Marion

The Catawba River Greenway, Phase I project is the initial segment of City's efforts to establish a greenway for its citizens. The city has received a generous gift of five acres along the Catawba River, an ideal location for the greenway. When completed, the area will provide a variety of recreational activities. Phase I calls for nearly a mile of trail, picnic area, pier, canoe launch, wildlife observation deck and parking.

5.0 State Parks Program

5.1 Land Acquisition

For fiscal year 2007-2008, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved \$13,543,122 for land acquisition projects in the state parks system (Table 5-1). These projects will help address the need for additional acreage at 15 state parks. However, it will cost an estimated \$176 million to purchase the 43,752 acres needed to complete all of the current state park units.

Table 5-1 Division of Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2007 - 2008			
Unit	Acres	Approved Cost	Description
Chimney Rock State Park	181	\$ 3,880,000	Tracts on Rumbling Bald, Round Top Mountain and next to Chimney Rock Park to protect natural and scenic resources
Eno River State Park	42	\$ 600,000	River corridor tracts for resource protection and public trails
Lake Norman State Park	115	\$ 2,323,400	Tract to expand land base for trails and to protect water quality
Lake Waccamaw State Park	3	\$ 372,000	Tract to provide public access to Lake Waccamaw on east side. Property includes boat ramp.
Mayo River State Park	350	\$ 1,028,000	Mayo River corridor tracts and Cedar Mountain tracts.
Medoc Mountain State Park	60	\$ 150,000	Buffer tracts and access control.
Mount Jefferson State Natural Area	34	\$ 300,000	Tract for resource protection on the slopes of Mount Jefferson
New River State Park	22	\$ 750,000	River corridor tracts for resource protection and public access
Raven Rock State Park	139	\$ 800,000	Inholding near Cedar Rock and resource protection tracts on south side.
South Mountains State Park	459	\$ 2,336,000	Multiple tracts in Henry Fork and on the west side of the park for resource protection
Associated Expenses	n/a	\$ 1,003,122	Land expenses such as surveys, appraisals, title work, interest payments and other overhead expenses.
Total	1,405	\$13,543,122	

Some highlights include acquisition of 181 acres at Chimney Rock State Park to protect scenic and natural views, and 115 acres at Lake Norman State Park to expand the trail park's trail system and protect water quality of the lake. However, it will cost an estimated \$176 million to purchase the 43,752 acres needed to complete all of the current state park units.

Through its "New Parks for a New Century" initiative, the Division of Parks and Recreation has identified over 40 sites across the state that could be added as potential state park units. These areas are some of the most treasured and threatened natural resources in North Carolina and have been identified as high-priority acquisitions to the state parks system. Purchasing these new units would require an estimated \$454 million to acquire 113,625 acres.

***Land Acquisition Projects for the State Parks System
Funded by NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund***

Orange County - Eno River State Park

The Eno River is a nationally-significant aquatic system. The state has been working on protection the river corridor since the early 1970s. The three tracts to be purchased are adjacent river. Two are near Cabel Ford, which may be used as a trail crossing for the state park trails in the future. The third tract is near the Lawrence Road crossing of the river. All three tracts protect the riparian buffer of the Eno River and its tributaries as well as provide connections for trails along the river.

Burke County - South Mountains State Park

South Mountains State Park is part of the nationally significant South Mountains range. This acquisition project consists of tracts in three different parts of the state park: the Jacobs Fork and Henry Fork watersheds as well as the Hall Knob area. The properties are key pieces for the protecting the park's natural resources as well as locating facilities.

Ashe and Alleghany Counties - New River State Park

The South Fork of the New River is a state and federal scenic river. Protection by the state began in the early 1970s. This project will purchase several tracts in the river corridor identified as high priority sites to provide scenic protection and visitor use of the river.

5.2 Construction and Renovation

During fiscal year 2007-2008, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved state park construction and renovation projects totaling \$18,083,320 (Table 5-2). With PARTF funds, the Division continues to address a lengthy backlog of construction and renovation projects in the state parks system. However, approximately \$335.4 million is required to meet all of the needs for new construction and renovation for state parks.

Table 5-2 Division Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2007-08		
Park	Description	Cost
Park System	Major Maintenance Funds	\$ 1,200,000
Park System	Trail Maintenance Funds	500,000
Park System	Statewide Construction Reserve	864,550
Carolina Beach State Park	Marina Dredging/Facility Improvements	2,300,000
Chimney Rock State Park	Trail Structure, Cistern, & Emergency Generator Improvements	865,550
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park	Visitor Center & Eastern District Office	3,299,260
Gorges State Park	Phase I-B: Visitor Center, Sewer, Picnic Area, Maintenance Area (Design Only)	695,900
Haw River State Park	Brown Summit Center Repairs/Renovations (Cottage 400)	450,000
Kerr Lake State Recreation Area	Henderson Point Campground Improvements	1,769,639
Morrow Mountain State Park	Shoreline Improvements & Boathouse Replacement	1,152, 596
Mount Mitchell State Park	Water System Improvements	450,000
Pettigrew State Park	New Maintenance Area & Conversion of Existing Area to Staff/Public Space	844,889
Pettigrew State Park	Pocosin Natural Area Improvements	101,970
Raven Rock State Park	Visitor Center & Picnic Area	3,588,966
TOTAL		\$18,083,320

***Capital Improvement Projects for the State Parks System
Funded by NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund***

Wayne County - Cliffs of the Neuse State Park Visitors Center

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park was established in 1945 when land on the south side of the Neuse River was donated through the Wayne Foundation. Additional purchases and donations increased the park to its present size of 890 acres. Today, the park office consists of a 600-square-foot building built in the 1950s. The park also services as the East District office which operates from a converted maintenance warehouse facility.

The new visitor center project includes an entrance road with 30-car parking lot, a 7500-square-foot building to house exhibits, an auditorium, a classroom, lobby area, and administrative office space for both the park and the district staff.

Harnett County - Raven Rock State Park Visitors Center & Picnic Area

The current visitor contact station is a converted single-wide mobile home. This project will construct a new visitor center that includes a museum-quality exhibit area, an auditorium, classroom, and office space for staff. Also included is expansion of the existing picnic area by adding two 12-table shelters, 10 individual picnic sites, parking lot expansion, and entrance road improvements.

Stanley County - Morrow Mountain State Park Boathouse Replacement

The existing boathouse serves visitors who use Lake Tillery and the Yadkin / Pee Dee rivers, but it is failing structurally. The project scope will include demolition and replacement of the boathouse, which also serves as a restroom and concession area. In addition to replacing the boat house, improvements will be made to the courtesy dock by adding mooring space for 6-8 boats, installing connecting ADA walkways, and installing one ADA boat launch ramp.

Special Financing for Projects in State Parks

In 2007, legislation approved by the General Assembly and Governor authorized the issuance of special indebtedness using certificates of participation (COPs) for land acquisition in the state parks system. The indebtedness is to be repaid by future PARTF revenue. A maximum amount of \$50 million is to be used to finance the cost of land acquisition for the expansion of the State Parks System and the Mountains to the Sea Trail. The land acquisitions are to support the conservation priorities set out by the One North Carolina Naturally Program.

The Parks and Recreation Authority approved 11 projects totaling \$50 million using the COPs funding (Table 5-3).

Examples of Projects Financed through the Certificates of Participation (COPs)

Rutherford County - Chimney Rock State Park

The Chimney Rock State Park project area contains many natural resources of national significance. The site was identified by the New Parks for a New Century planning effort and was authorized as a new state park by the General Assembly in 2005. This acquisition project will help to protect the resources around the Bottomless Pools between Chimney Rock Park and Cane Creek Mountain. The tract contains the plunge pools known as the Bottomless Pools, which was an attraction in the Town of Lake Lure for many years.

Guilford County - Haw River State Park

Located near the headwaters, Haw River State Park and Summit Environmental Education Center is situated on nearly 300 acres of piedmont forest, fields, wetlands, and uplands. This project adds nearly 1,000 acres to provide further resource protection of the Haw River corridor and recreational opportunities for park visitors. Future recreation opportunities are to include picnicking, camping, and hiking. The Haw River corridor is also a proposed route for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Guilford, Alamance, Orange, Wake and Johnston Counties – The Mountains-to-Sea Trail

The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is an effort to link by trail Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to Jockey's Ridge State Park on the Outer Banks. The trail is the flagship project of the NC State Trails System. Today, over 450 miles of the 1,000 mile route are open for use. These acquisitions, along with future partnerships across North Carolina, will eventually link communities together and to serve as the backbone for a growing system of land and water trails.

Table 5-3 Certificates of Participation (COPS) North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Projects for FY 2007 – 2008			
Unit	Acres	Approved Cost	Description
Chimney Rock State Park	244	\$5,500,000	Bottomless Pools, Bat Cave and Round Top Mountain tracts for resource protection
Elk Knob State Park	2,269	\$13,100,000	Long Hope Valley property for natural and scenic resource protection
Deep River State Trail	73	\$500,000	Tracts near White Pines for water quality and natural resource protection
Elk Knob State Park	309	\$3,826,000	Snake Mountain and Elk Knob tracts for natural and scenic resource protection
Eno River State Park	20	\$500,000	Resource protection tracts at the Pump Station access of the state park
Haw River State Park	800	\$17,000,000	Key tracts in core area of state park, both up and down stream of the Summit
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	200	\$2,000,000	Alamance County keystone tracts for state trail north of I-40
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	250	\$3,000,000	Guilford County keystone tracts for state trail between Greensboro Lake and Haw River
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	350	\$985,000	Orange County tracts upstream of state park along the Eno River for state trail
Mountains-to-Sea State Trail	212	\$2,589,000	Tracts along the Neuse River where Marks Creek joins the river for state trail
Mount Mitchell State Park	65	\$1,000,000	Tracts for natural and scenic protection of the Black Mountains
Totals	4,792	\$50,000,000	

Repayment of COPs Indebtedness

The Parks and Recreation Authority may allocate up to 50 percent of the portion of the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund dedicated for projects in state parks to repay the debt. The PARTF revenue designated for grants to local governments cannot be used to repay debt. This year's principal plus interest payment for COPs indebtedness issued in 2005 is \$1,757,061. These funds repay \$11,381,000 for projects approved by the Parks and Recreation Authority in Fiscal Year 2004-05 and \$8,701,616 approved for projects in Fiscal Year 2005-06.

Pursuant to Session Law 2007-323, the Parks and Recreation Authority approved the repayment of up to \$20 million for projects approved under the Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund from the state parks portion of PARTF. Repayment of the WAMI projects funds will begin after Fiscal Year 2007-08.

6.0 Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Program

6.1 Program Description

North Carolina's Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program was established by the General Assembly in 1981. In fiscal year 1996-97, the program began receiving 5 percent of the revenues from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The program enabling legislation (GS 113A-134.1) states that public purpose would be served by providing increased access to coastal waters, public parking facilities, or other related public uses.

The program provides matching grants to local governments for low-cost capital projects designed to improve pedestrian access to the state's beaches and waterways. The program, administered by the Division of Coastal Management (DCM), offers matching grant funds to local governments throughout the 20 coastal counties. Since 1981, over 300 public access sites have been either constructed or improved at a cost of over \$30 million. The majority of the grant projects are managed by local governments who are responsible for construction, operation and long-term maintenance of the facilities. While most of the early projects were located along the oceanfront, more and more projects are now designed to improve access to estuarine shorelines, coastal rivers, and urban waterfronts.

The Division of Coastal Management sends pre-application requests for proposals (RFPs) to local governments in the 20 coastal counties in the fall of every year. Select communities are then invited to submit a final application with communities prioritized for funding being accomplished in May of every year. Recipients are usually selected in July and contracts are awarded in between September and January. Grant recipients have 18 months to complete their projects. However, extensions are granted for un-foreseen events and delays such as hurricanes. The maximum life of a contract with extensions is three (3) years.

The division uses criteria developed by the Coastal Resources Commission to select grant recipients. Local governments are required to match from 10 percent to 25 percent of the project costs depending on whether the request is for acquisition of land or improvements, as well as the communities' economic status.

The required match, based on recent rule changes, may include Federal and other State funds to be used as the local government cash contribution provided such funds are not already being used as matching funds for other state and federal programs. Minimum match requirements are based on the economic status of the local government per the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Tier designations, as outlined by the Lee Act (G.S. 105-129.3). Counties designated as Tier 1 and the municipalities located within them are considered economically distressed. Projects that are listed on Table 6.1 denoted by an (*) are able to take advantage of a lower match requirement.

6.2 *Types of Projects Funded*

Communities can apply for five different types of water access sites: local, neighborhood, regional, multi-regional and urban waterfront redevelopment projects.

- Local access sites include public access points, offering minimal, or no facilities. Pedestrians who reside within a few hundred yards of the site primarily use them. Generally, these access ways are a minimum of ten feet in width providing only a dune crossover or pier. Vehicle parking is generally not available at these access sites. Bicycle racks may be provided as well as litter receptacles and access signs.
- Neighborhood access sites are public access areas offering parking, usually for five to 25 vehicles, a dune crossover or pier, litter receptacles and public access signs. Such accesses are typically 40 to 60 feet in width and are primarily used by individuals within the immediate subdivision or vicinity of the site. Restroom facilities may be installed.
- Regional access sites serve the public throughout an island or community including day visitors. These sites normally provide parking for 25 to 80 vehicles, restrooms, a dune crossover, pier, foot showers, litter receptacles, and public access signs. Where possible, one-half acre of open space in addition to all required setback areas should be provided for buffering, day use, nature study or similar purposes.
- Multi-regional access sites are generally larger than regional accessways but smaller than state parks. Multi-regional facilities provide parking for 80 to 200 cars, restrooms with indoor showers and changing rooms, and concession.
- Urban waterfront redevelopment projects improve public access to urban waterfronts. Such projects include the establishment or rehabilitation of boardwalk areas, shoreline stabilization measures such as the installation or rehabilitation of bulkheads, and the placement or removal of pilings for the purpose of public safety and/or increased access and use of the urban waterfront.

Additionally as part of rule changes that took affect in 2007, boat ramps and motorized boating facilities may be included as part of any of the above types of access provided the pedestrian access is also part of the project.

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6.3 PARTF Revenues and Awards Based on 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Deposits

The actual amount transferred from the PARTF fund to DCM during fiscal year 2007-2008 was \$2,624,060. Including carryover funds, cancelled contracts and those completed under budget, the total funds available for awards was \$5,475,696.

The DCM received 37 pre-applications from 24 local governments requesting over \$8,230,000 in funds. Table 6-1 provides the list of local governments prioritized to receive funding following review of final applications. Two of the listed projects (Pender and Dare County), have received WAMI funding (w) totaling \$1,135,365; a third is an accessory project to the Jeannette's Pier project (\$568,500).

Table 6-1 Communities Prioritized for 2007-2008 Funding Based on 2007-2008 Deposits and Other Available Funds

Local Government	Project Name	Grant Requests	Total Cost w/Match
Ahoskie *	Recreational Land Acquisition Phase II	\$96,017	\$106,685
Beaufort County *	Cotton Patch Landing Public Access	\$500,000	\$700,000
Carolina Beach	Cape Fear Blvd. Access Enhancement	\$100,000	\$200,000
Carteret County	Cedar Point Boat Ramp	\$300,000	\$850,000
Dare County (w)	Manns Harbor Marina	\$335,365	\$4,256,515
Edenton	Public Waterfront Property Renovation Project	\$13,374	\$17,832
Hertford	Lower Perquimans River Kayak/Canoe Launch	\$8,943	\$11,924
Jacksonville	Sturgeon City	\$300,000	\$400,000
Kure Beach	Oceanfront Park Land Acquisition	\$600,000	\$3,625,080
Leland	Sturgeon Creek Land Acquisition	\$168,000	\$210,000
Nags Head (w)	Whalebone Park	\$568,500	\$1,068,500
Navassa	Davis Creek Regional Access Phase II Improvements	\$117,221	\$156,295
Oak Island	Yaupon Pier Acquisition	\$300,000	\$1,008,000
Onslow County	Oakhurst Nature Park	\$52,275	\$69,700
Oriental	Hodges Street Pier	\$12,750	\$17,000
Pender County (w)	Hampstead Waterfront Access and Park	\$800,000	\$10,000,000
Sunset Beach	Waterway Park Public Access	\$500,000	\$2,250,000
Totals		\$4,772,445	\$24,947,531

(w) WAMI related projects (*) Economically Distressed Communities Totals may be adjusted during the final contract process.

The above-prioritize \$4,772,445 for grant contracts that will begin either the fall of 2008 or January 2009. Additionally \$500,000 is held in reserve for the future Aquarium Emerald Isle Pier project, and a \$100,000 for a previously awarded Fort Fisher project. *Total funds budgeted \$5,392,445.*

No PARTF funds are used for administrative costs associated with the grant program. The only non-award costs are about \$20,000 a year used for access site signs made by the State Department of Corrections. Signs are provided for new sites as well as existing ones which regularly require replacement due to weathering and storm events.